

EARNING YOUR LICENSE

Safe riding requires knowledge and skill. Licensing tests are the best measurement of the skills necessary to operate safely in traffic. Assessing your own skills is not enough. People often overestimate their own abilities. It's even harder for friends and relatives to be totally honest about your skills. Licensing exams are designed to be scored more objectively.

To earn your license, you must pass a knowledge test and an on-cycle skill test. Knowledge test questions are based on information, practices, and ideas from this manual. They require that you know and understand road rules and safe riding practices. An on-cycle skill test will either be conducted in an actual traffic environment or in a controlled, off-street area.

KNOWLEDGE TEST

(Sample Questions)

1. It is *MOST* important to flash your brake light when:

- A. Someone is following too closely.
- B. You will be slowing suddenly.
- C. There is a stop sign ahead.
- D. Your signals are not working.

2. The *FRONT* brake supplies how much of the potential stopping power?

- A. About one-quarter.
- B. About one-half.
- C. About three-quarters.
- D. All of the stopping power.

3. To swerve correctly:

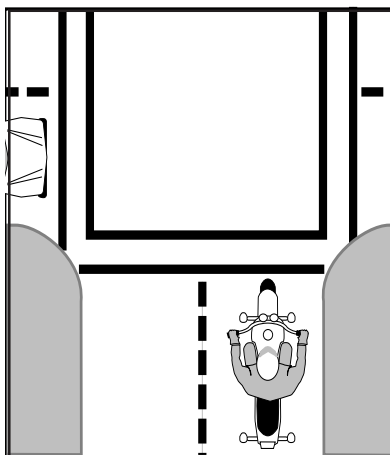
- A. Shift your weight quickly.
- B. Turn the handlebars quickly.
- C. Press the handgrip in the direction of the turn.
- D. Press the handgrip in the opposite direction of the turn.

4. If a tire goes flat while riding, and you must stop, it is usually best to:

- A. Relax on the handlegrips.
- B. Shift your weight toward the good tire.
- C. Brake on the good tire and steer to the side of the road.
- D. Use both brakes and stop quickly.

5. The car below is waiting to enter the intersection. It is best to:

- A. Make eye contact with the driver.
- B. Reduce speed and be ready to react.
- C. Maintain speed and position.
- D. Maintain speed and move right.



Answers to Test Yourself (previous pages)

1-C, 2-D, 3-D, 4-A, 5-B,
6-C, 7-D, 8-D, 9-C, 10-C,

11-D, 12-A, 13-A, 14-C

ON-CYCLE SKILL TEST

Basic vehicle control and crash-avoidance skills are included in on-cycle tests to determine your ability to handle normal and hazardous traffic situations.

You may be tested for your ability to:

- **Know your motorcycle** and your riding limits.
- **Accelerate, brake, and turn safely.**
- **See, be seen** and communicate with others.
- **Adjust speed** and position to the traffic situation.
- **Stop, turn and swerve quickly.**
- **Make critical decisions** and carry them out.

Examiners may score on factors related to safety such as:

- **Selecting** safe speeds to perform maneuvers.
- **Choosing** the correct path and staying within boundaries.
- **Completing** normal and quick stops.
- **Completing** normal and quick turns, or swerves.

To receive a motorcycle license with full privileges, most states require that maneuvers be performed as designed

On-cycle skill tests are not designed for sidecars or three-wheel vehicles. Those vehicles maneuver differently than a two-wheeled motorcycle. Depending on the state, a driver examiner may follow you on a car test-route. Restrictions (sidecar, three-wheeled vehicle) may be added until completion of a two-wheel cycle test.

Diagrams and drawings used in this manual are for reference only and are not to correct scale for size of vehicles and distances.

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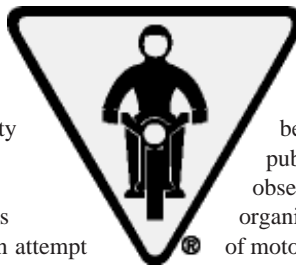
MOTORCYCLES MAKE SENSE... SO DOES PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

They are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn critical skills needed to ride safely.

Professional training for beginning and experienced riders prepares them for real world traffic situations. *Motorcycle RiderCourses®* teach and improve such skills as:

- Effective turning
- Braking maneuvers
- Protective apparel selection
- Obstacle avoidance
- Traffic strategies
- Maintenance

**For the beginning or experienced
RiderCourse nearest you,
call toll free: (800) 446-9227**



The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcycles on the nation's streets and highways. In an attempt to reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and statistics. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national not-for-profit organization, MSF is sponsored by the U.S. motorcycle distributors: BMW, Ducati, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha.

The information contained in this publication is offered for the benefit of those who have an interest in riding motorcycles. The information has

been compiled from publications, interviews and observations of individuals and organizations familiar with the use of motorcycles, accessories, and training. Because there are many differences in product design, riding styles, Federal, State and local laws, there may be organizations and individuals who hold differing opinions. Consult your local regulatory agencies for information concerning the operation of motorcycles in your area. Although the Motorcycle Safety Foundation will continue to research, field test and publish responsible viewpoints on the subject, it disclaims any liability for the views expressed herein.

Printing and distribution courtesy of
Motorcycle Safety Foundation
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<http://www.msf-usa.org>

Second Revision December 1978
Third Revision February 1981
Fourth Revision January 1983
Fifth Revision October 1987

Sixth Revision April 1991
Seventh Revision September 1992
Eight Revision January 1999
Printed in USA 000254
